Unit 10: Supporting Individuals with Additional Needs – Case Studies

Case 1: Child Study

Amira is eight years old and is a wheelchair user, following a road traffic accident when she was five years old. Amira requires one-to-one personal care due to her physical disabilities as she sustained a fractured cervical spine during the accident, which severed her spinal cord. This means that she has no movement below her cervical spine.

Amira attends a school for children with additional needs where she has a designated teaching assistant and also a carer who provides her with personal care during the school day.

Amira lives with her parents Bushra and Mounir and her older sibling Hasan who is twelve years of age. The family live in an upstairs apartment which is small and not 'wheelchair friendly'.

Bushra has a part-time job at a local day nursery but must stay at home during the school holidays in order to care for Amira and Hasan - reducing the family income.

Mounir works full-time at a local factory working long hours for a low wage. The neighbourhood where the family lives is not tolerant of Amira's 'difference' and the family have received unpleasant comments as they pass neighbours on the street, causing them to avoid going out whenever possible.

Case 2: Adult Study

Tariq is 52 years old and has Downs Syndrome and type-2 diabetes. He also has a learning age of eight, meaning that he requires support with all aspects of daily living. Tariq lives in a group setting with five other adults who have learning difficulties and also require additional support.

Tariq previously lived with his mother, but following her death last year, Tariq moved to the residential setting.

Tariq has always enjoyed going shopping, but since he has moved into the residence, he prefers to stay in his room which is a concern for the staff. This has followed an incident with some local youths who shouted at Tariq the last time he went out with a group of residents and staff. Recently, Tariq was refused entry to a local cinema by the manager, who stated that Tariq's appearance could prevent other people wanting to attend.

Tariq is also refusing to keep to the special diet required to control his type-2 diabetes, and staff have found bags of sweets under his pillow when making his bed. His blood glucose levels are unstable, resulting in Tariq feeling unwell.

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